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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/852,563	05/10/2001	Hirokazu Uchio	B422-150	6252

26272 7590 05/27/2003

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EXAMINER

RONES, CHARLES

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/852,563

Applicant(s)

UCHIO ET AL.

Examiner

Charles L. Rones

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 25-32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election

The election timely filed on April 17, 2003 has been entered electing claims 25-32.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwai et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,175,681 ('Iwai').

Iwai discloses:

As to claim 25,

dividing a patent application procedure into a plurality of steps, and associating a reference document used in generating a document in step units with a due date of generation of the document; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67; and

managing generation of the document; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67.

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As to claim 26,

a code for dividing a patent application procedure into a plurality of steps, and associating a reference document used in generating a document in step units with a due date of generation of the document; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67; and

a code for realizing a managing step of managing generation of the document; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67.

As to claim 27,

accumulation means for accumulating a related technical document including a corresponding foreign application for the patent application; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67; and

display control means for displaying a list of technical documents of a patent application accumulated in said accumulation means; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67.

As to claim 8,

wherein said display control means displays a flag indicating whether or not a prior art disclosure procedure has been performed on the technical document; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67.

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As to claim 29,

wherein said display control means displays descriptions indicating correspondence between the technical document and a rejection reason; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67.

As to claim 30,

wherein said display control means displays a list of applications by which the technical document has been cited relating to the technical document; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67.

As to claim 31,

accumulating a related technical document including a corresponding foreign application for the patent application; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67; and displaying and controlling a list of technical documents of a patent application accumulated in said accumulation step; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67.

As to claim 32,

a code for realizing an accumulation step of accumulating a related technical document including a corresponding foreign application for the patent application; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67; and

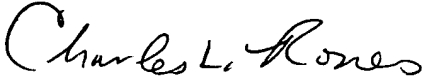
a code for realizing a displaying and controlling step of displaying a list of technical documents of a patent application accumulated in said accumulation step; See 9:25-67; 10:1-35; 17:1-25; 18:30-67.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles L. Rones whose telephone number is 703-306-3030. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3800.


Charles L. Rones
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2175

May 21, 2003